

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending December 15, 2012

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SUMMARY

During the week ending December 15, 2012, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **LOW** with **WIDESPREAD** geographic spread of influenza. Most influenza activity indicators are now trending upward.

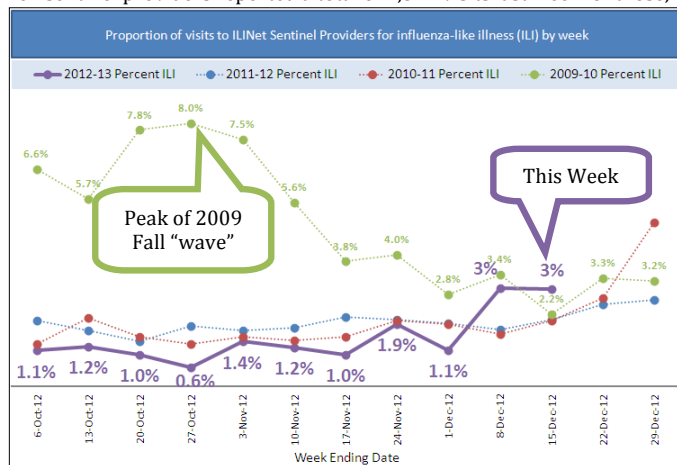
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
Minimal
✓ Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
Sporadic
Local
Regional
✓ Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

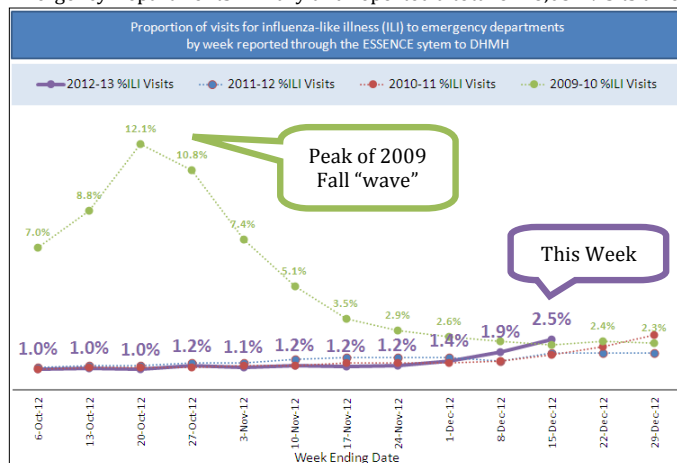
Ten sentinel providers reported a total of 7,312 visits last week. Of those, 217 (3%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of 2.9%.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	53 (24%)	33 (20%)	362 (27%)
Age 5-24	87 (40%)	83 (51%)	553 (41%)
Age 25-49	53 (24%)	30 (19%)	307 (23%)
Age 50-64	15 (7%)	10 (6%)	78 (6%)
Age ≥ 65	9 (4%)	6 (4%)	39 (3%)
Total ILI Visits	217 (100%)	162 (100%)	1,339 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 46,032 visits through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 1,136 (2.5%) were visits for ILI.



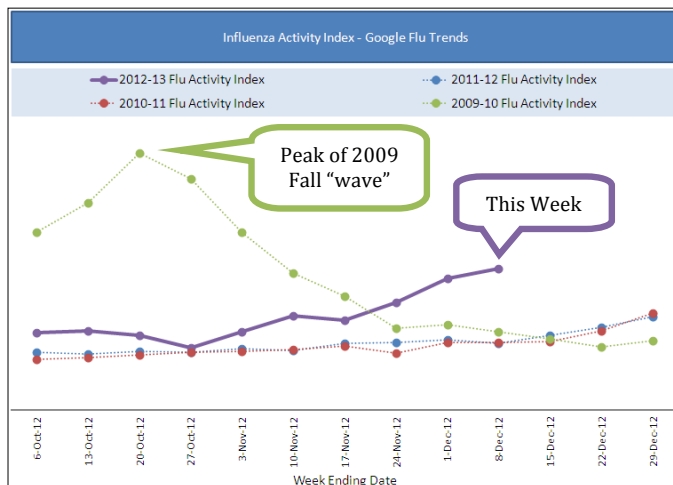
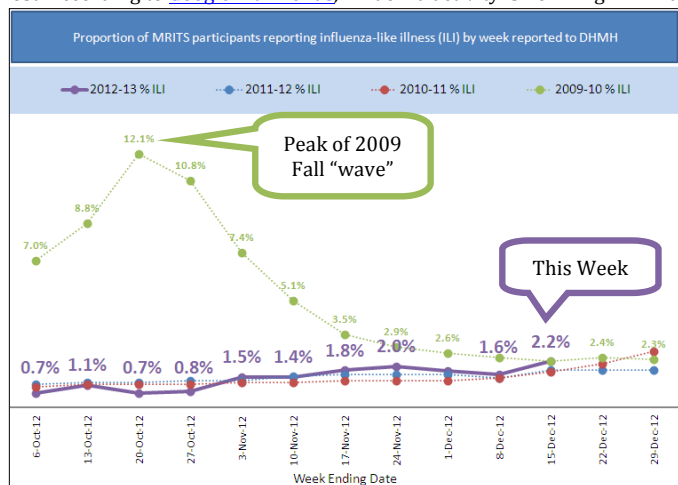
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	376 (33%)	291 (32%)	2,161 (32%)
Age 5-24	372 (33%)	276 (30%)	1,952 (29%)
Age 25-49	275 (24%)	233 (26%)	1,798 (27%)
Age 50-64	78 (7%)	72 (8%)	522 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	35 (3%)	38 (4%)	254 (4%)
Total ILI Visits	1,136 (100%)	910 (100%)	6,687 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

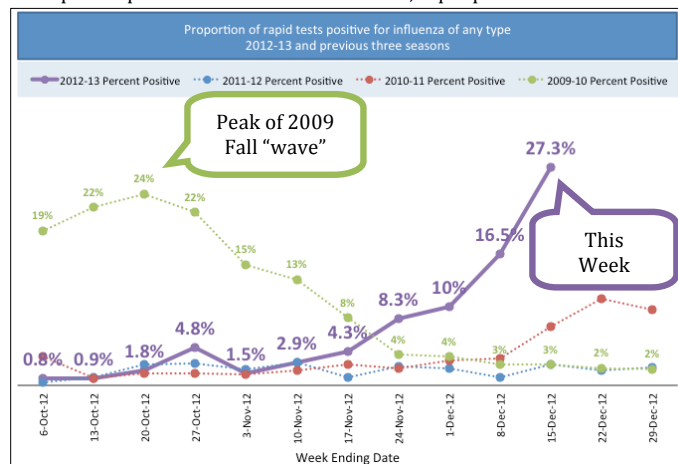
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

A total of 500 responses to the [weekly flu survey](#) (MRITS) were received. Of those, 11 (2.2%) reported ILI with a cumulative 17 days of regular daily activities lost. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is now "high" in Maryland.

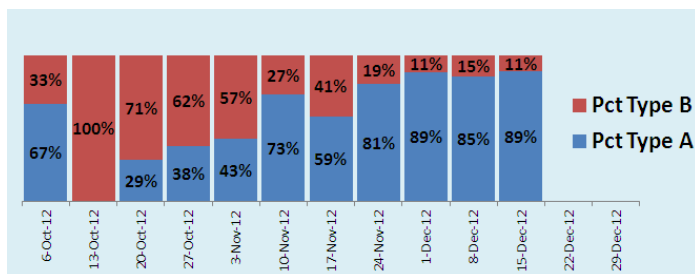


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Twenty-seven clinical laboratories reported 2,054 rapid influenza tests performed. Of those, 534 (27.3%) were positive. Four hundred ninety were positive for influenza type A, and 60 were positive for type B. (Rapid influenza tests are not as accurate as PCR tests. Now that the State Laboratories Administration has reported positive PCR tests for influenza, rapid positive tests are counted as lab-confirmed cases for surveillance purposes.)

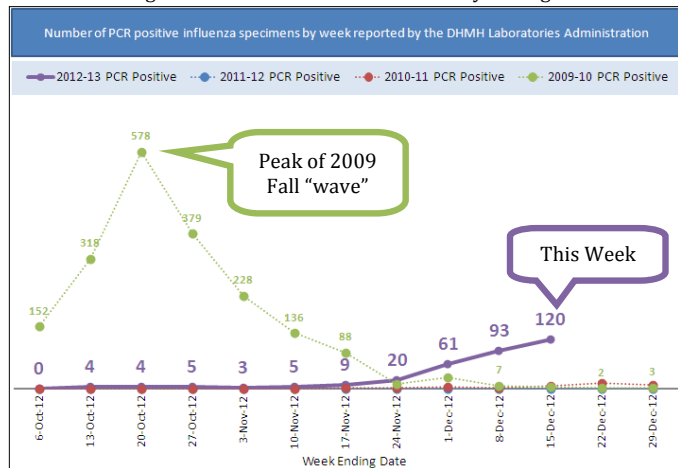


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	474 (89%)	176 (85%)	807 (84%)
Type B	60 (11%)	30 (15%)	151 (16%)
Total	534 (100%)	206 (100%)	958 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 209 PCR tests for influenza. One hundred seventeen of those were positive for influenza type A (H3N2), two were positive for type B influenza, and one was positive for influenza type A (H1N1). (Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.)

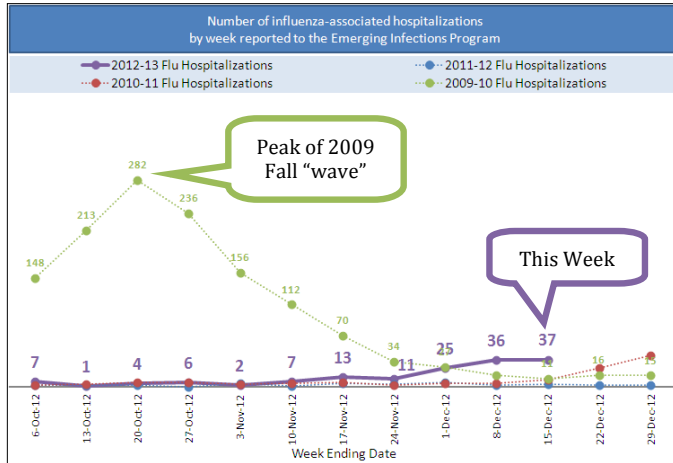


Positive PCR Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	1 (<1%)	2 (2%)	8 (2%)
Type A (H3N2)	117 (98%)	81 (87%)	296 (91%)
Type A (H3N2v)	-- --	-- --	-- --
Type B	2 (2%)	10 (11%)	22 (7%)
Total	120 (100%)	93 (100%)	326 (100%)

Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

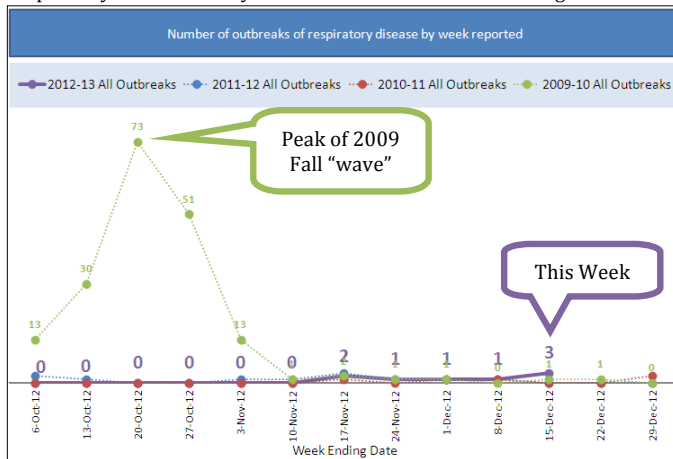
Hospitals in Maryland reported 37 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	5 (14%)	4 (11%)	28 (19%)
Age 5-17	2 (5%)	3 (8%)	11 (7%)
Age 18-24	3 (8%)	4 (11%)	12 (8%)
Age 25-49	3 (8%)	10 (28%)	28 (19%)
Age 50-64	5 (14%)	10 (28%)	30 (20%)
Age ≥ 65	19 (51%)	5 (14%)	40 (27%)
Total	37 (100%)	36 (100%)	149 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

One outbreak of influenza and two outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported to DHMH. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



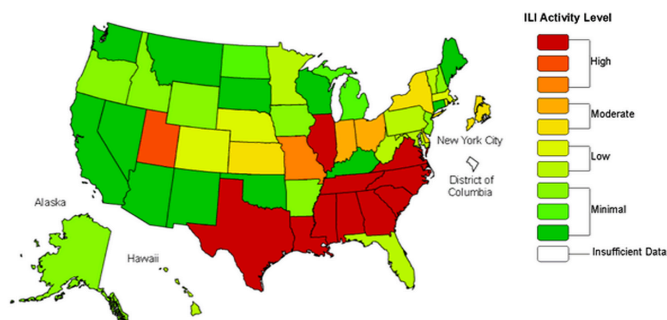
Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	1 (33%)	1 (100%)	3 (38%)
Influenza-like Illness	2 (67%)	-- --	3 (38%)
Pneumonia	-- --	-- --	2 (25%)
Other Respiratory	-- --	-- --	-- --
Total	3 (100%)	1 (100%)	8 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

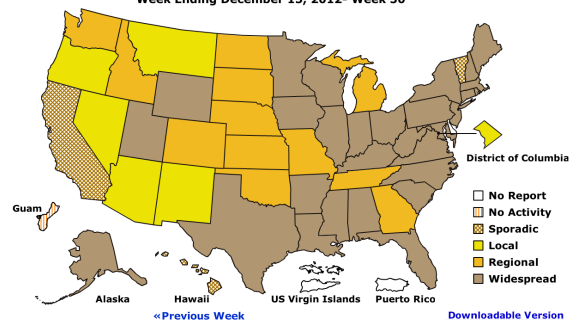
During the week ending December 15, 2012, influenza activity increased in the U.S.

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 9,562 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories in week 50, 2,709 (28.3%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. One was associated with an influenza A (H3) virus and one was associated with an influenza A virus for which the subtype was not determined.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 3.2%; above the national baseline of 2.2%. Nine of ten regions reported ILI above region-specific baseline levels. Twelve states experienced high ILI activity, New York City and 5 states experienced moderate ILI activity; 11 states experienced low ILI activity; 22 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** Twenty-nine states reported widespread geographic influenza activity; 12 states reported regional activity; the District of Columbia and 5 states reported local activity; 3 states reported sporadic activity; Guam reported no influenza activity, and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 1 state did not report.

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet
2012-13 Influenza Season Week 50 ending Dec 15, 2012



A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*
Week Ending December 15, 2012- Week 50



*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.